

# VETERANS HEALTH CARE BENEFITS OVERVIEW

# Defining a Veteran for VA Health Care Benefits

- A veteran is a person who served in the active military, naval or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- Former Reservists may be eligible for VA health care benefits if they served full-time and for conflict or combat time operational or support (excludes training) purposes
- Former National Guard members may be eligible for care or enrollment if mobilized by a Federal order

## Character of Discharge

- Veterans with Honorable, General or Under Honorable Conditions character of discharge are eligible for VA health care benefits as long as minimum duty requirements are met
- Veterans given Other than Honorable (OTH) discharges and those upgraded from OTH to General require VARO review and decision before routine care may be provided

### Minimum Duty Requirements

Persons enlisting in the Armed Forces after 9/7/80 (enlisted), or who entered on active duty after 10/16/81, are not eligible for VHA benefits unless they completed:

- 24 months continuous active service, or
- the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty

# Excluded from the Minimum Duty Requirements

38 USC 5303A – Minimum active duty requirements do not apply to persons discharged or released from active duty for:

- Early out-- 21 of 24 month tour
- Hardship
- Disability that was incurred or aggravated in line of duty Or veterans with compensable SC disability



# VA HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT

### Medical Benefits Package (Standard Benefits)

VA's medical benefits package provides the following health care services to all enrolled veterans



### **Preventive Care Services**

- Immunizations
- Physical Examinations
- Health Care Assessments
- Screening Tests
- Health Education Programs



## Ambulatory (Outpatient) Diagnostic and Treatment Services

- Emergency outpatient care in VA facilities
- Medical
- Surgical (including reconstructive/plastic surgery as a result of disease or trauma)
- Chiropractic Care
- Mental Health
- Bereavement Counseling
- Substance Abuse



### Hospital (Inpatient) Diagnostic and Treatment

- Emergency inpatient care in VA facilities
- Medical
- Surgical (including reconstructive/plastic surgery as a result of disease or trauma)
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse



### **Medications and Supplies**

- Prescription medications
- Over-the counter medications
- Medical and surgical supplies



# Veteran Beneficiary Travel Program

## Basic Veteran Beneficiary Travel (BT) Eligibility Overview

If a Veteran meets the criteria below, he/she may be eligible for mileage reimbursement or special mode transport in association with obtaining VA health care services.

#### **Veteran Qualifies If:**

- (1) Veteran has a service-connected (SC) rating of 30 percent or more, or
- (2) Veteran is traveling for treatment of a SC condition, or
- (3) Veteran receives a VA pension, or
- (4) Veterans income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate, or
- (5) Veteran is traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension examination

## Non VA Care (Fee Basis)

Definition of Non VA Care: Services provided to Veterans in non-VA medical facilities at VA expense.

### Basic Provisions:

 Non-VA Care may be authorized in advance when VA services are unavailable or cannot be economically provided.

## Non VA Care continued

 Non-VA facility care is not considered permanent status for a veteran.

### Fee Programs:

Outpatient Medical Non-VA Hospital Pharmacy Dental Unauthorized Claims Mill Bill

## Non VA Care (Fee Basis)

<u>Unauthorized</u> – VA may authorize non-VA services for Veterans in emergent situations when they meet these criteria:

- Care is emergent
- The condition treated is SC or the Veteran is rated P&T
- VA facilities are unavailable

Mill Bill - NSC Veterans may be eligible when:

- Care is emergent
- Treated in a VA facility within the past 24 months
- No other insurance coverage

## **Points of Contact**

#### **Business Office**

1-800-329-8387, dial 1 and extension 76542

#### Non VA Call Center

1-800-329-8387, dial 1 and extension 64545

#### Travel

1-800-329-8387, dial 1 and extension 62120

# For additional information on Health Care Benefits

For the latest Veterans Health Benefits Guide, please go to the following link:

http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/resources
/epublications.asp